

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

20. (AMENDED) A method for preparing a rapidly disintegrable solid preparation comprising combining a low-substituted hydroxypropylcellulose having 5% to less than 7% by weight of hydroxypropoxyl groups, with **[a pharmacologically active ingredient] lansoprazole** and a sugar to obtain a solid preparation;

wherein said solid preparation is buccally dissolved in from about 5 to about 50 seconds.

21. (AMENDED) A method for improving fast disintegrability of a solid preparation of **[a pharmacologically active ingredient] lansoprazole** comprising

adding low-substituted hydroxypropylcellulose having 5% to less than 7% by weight of hydroxypropoxyl groups to **[said solid preparation] lansoprazole** to obtain an improved solid preparation;

wherein said improved solid preparation is buccally dissolved in from about 5 to about 50 seconds.

REMARKS

I. Amendments

By this amendment, claims 20 and 21 have been amended and claims 1-7, 13, 18, 19, 22 and 27 have been cancelled.

This amendment adds no new matter to the specification. Support for this amendment is found in the specification and claims as filed.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".

No amendment of inventorship is necessitated by this amendment.

II. Discussion of the Rejection under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103(a) over Ohno *et al.*

Claims 20, 21, 23-26, 28 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103(a) as unpatentable over Ohno *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,958,453. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 22 and 27 were not rejected over the cited reference. By this amendment, Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of claims 22 and 27 into the related independent claims 20 and 21 respectively. Applicants submit that independent claims 20 and 21, as amended, are patentable over the cited reference. Similarly, the more specific dependent claims 23-26, 28 and 29 are also patentable over the cited reference for the same reason.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Se. 103(a) rejection over Ohno *et al.*

III. Discussion of the Rejection under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103(a) over Ohno *et al.* in view of Shimizu *et al.*

Claims 1-7, 13, 18, 19, 22 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103(a) as unpatentable over Ohno *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,958,453 in view of Shimizu *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,299,904. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

A Certified Copy of the English-language translation of the priority document of the present invention accompanies this response. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the cited '904 reference in light of Applicants' priority, perfected by the submission of the translation.

IV. Discussion of the Rejection under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103(a) over Ohno *et al.* in view of Shashoua *et al.*

Claims 1-7, 13, 18, 19, 22 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103(a) as obvious over the Ohno *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,958,453 in view of Shashoua *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,795,909.

By this amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-7, 13, 18, 19, 22 and 27.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103(a) over Ohno *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,958,453 in view of Shashoua *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,795,909.

V. Conclusion

Reconsideration of the claims in view of the arguments made above is solicited. Should the Examiner believe that a conference with Applicants' attorney would advance prosecution of this application, she is respectfully requested to call Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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